

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2006 in connection with the above-identified patent application. Claims 2, 14 and 21 have each been placed into independent form. Claims 1, 13 and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 4, 9-12, 15-17, 18, 20 and 22-25 have been amended. Pending claims 2-12, 14-18, 20-25 are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, 14, 17 and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 18 stands allowed. Claims 2, 14 and 21 have each been placed into independent form. Claim 18 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1, 4-9, 11-13, 15, 16, 19, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Larson (US Patent No. 3,966,056).

Larson was deemed to disclose an article support device comprising all the elements claimed including, inter alia, a first portion (e.g. 36); a second portion (e.g. 36); and wherein the portions are perpendicularly connected to each other with each portion comprising an opening (e.g. 46,46). Regarding claims 4-8, the reinforcement members and the arrangement thereof were deemed anticipated by the arrangement shown in Fig. 7 of Larson to the extent that the individual brackets may be flipped so their dispositions are reversed.

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 4-12 have been amended to depend from claim 2 and as such are in condition for allowance.

Claim 13 has been cancelled. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to depend from claim 14 and as such are in condition for allowance.

Claim 19 has been cancelled. Claims 23 and 24 have been amended to depend from claim 21 and are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 10, 20, 22 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson.

Larson was stated to disclose the invention substantially as claimed except for the second portion being longer than the other, rectangular shape of openings and different sizes of portions. The Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to provide Larson with the above-mentioned features as claimed in order to facilitate insertion of different sized and shaped fasteners.

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 2 and is in condition for allowance. Claims 20, 22 and 25 have been amended to depend from claim 21 and are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments, comments, and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct and unobvious over the art of record.


Allowance of all pending claims and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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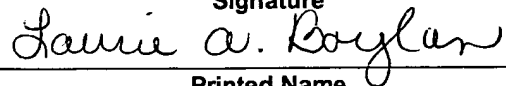
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
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